Attn: DO/EO/US

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Butterbach et al.,

International Application No.

PCT/EP99/07579

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box PCT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examining this application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification (Using the English Translation):

On page 1 of the English translation, on a separate line between the title and line 1, please insert the following paragraph:

-- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a national stage application under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of international application PCT/EP99/007579 filed on October 9, 1999, the international